

A photograph of President Barack Obama sitting at his desk in the Oval Office. He is wearing a dark suit and a striped tie, and is looking down at a document on his desk, holding a pen. The desk is cluttered with papers and a small cup. In the background, there are large windows showing greenery outside, and a framed portrait of a woman is on the left. A large American flag is partially visible behind him. An orange banner is at the top, and white text is at the bottom.

YEAR OF ACTION

**AN UPDATE ON WHAT PRESIDENT OBAMA HAS DONE
THIS YEAR TO HELP ENSURE
OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL AMERICANS.**



The President will continue to work with Congress wherever he can to keep our economy moving forward and creating jobs. But there's nothing more important to the President than restoring middle class economic security by building an economy where every hardworking American can get ahead. To do that, the President will also do everything he can on his own to fight for middle class families every single day.

To keep moving forward, we need a plan that rewards hard work with fair wages, invests in education, trains workers with the skills they need for a good job, builds on our automobile and manufacturing boom, and ensures those at the top pay their fair share of taxes. As part of this Year of Action, since January, the Administration has taken more than 40 actions described in this document to help build real, lasting economic security for the middle class. Using his pen and his phone, the President has helped to create new manufacturing jobs, expand apprenticeships and job training, make student loan payments more affordable, support workplace flexibility and equal pay, cut carbon pollution and successfully rally support to raise the minimum wage in states across the country while signing an executive order to raise the minimum wage for workers on new federal contracts.

But at this make or break moment for the middle class, Republicans in Congress – the least productive Congress in history – have set records in obstruction and are now wasting time and taxpayer dollars on political stunts like Speaker Boehner's plan to sue the President for doing his job. Not only are Republicans in Congress pushing for the same failed top-down policies that cut taxes for millionaires, but they've also blocked simple yes or no votes to raise the minimum wage, cut student loan interest rates, and ensure women get paid equally for doing the same job as a man. Republicans are so focused on blocking change that their approach threatens to stop our country from moving forward.

Thanks to the grit and resilience of the American people, we've made progress over the last few years and there's reason for optimism. But now it's time for Washington to do its part by investing in a plan that grows our economy from the middle-out, not the top-down.



Taking Action on Equal Pay and Workplace Flexibility: President Obama took action to promote pay transparency by prohibiting federal contractors from retaliating against employees who choose to discuss their compensation and taking steps to collect new summary data on contractor compensation. The President also hosted the first-ever White House Summit on Working Families, at which he announced new actions designed to expand flexible workplace policies in the federal government as well as initiatives to remove barriers to training and access to non-traditional occupations.

Reducing Carbon Pollution in Our Power Plants: The EPA's Clean Power Plan proposed commonsense carbon pollution standards for existing plants to protect the health of our children. This plan puts our nation on the path toward a 30 percent reduction in carbon pollution from the power sector by 2030. In addition, the release of the third National Climate Assessment provides the most authoritative and comprehensive source of scientific information to date about climate change impacts in the United States.

Ensuring Student Debt Remains Affordable: The President directed the Secretary of Education to let borrowers cap their monthly student loan payments at 10 percent of their monthly incomes, making this option available on all direct loans. Up to 5 million borrowers are expected to benefit.

Call for \$10.10 Minimum Wage Has Spurred State, Local and Business Action: Since the State of the Union – and the President's Executive Order requiring a \$10.10 minimum wage for workers on new federal contracts – states like Connecticut, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota and Vermont have taken action to raise wages at or near \$10.10 that will benefit well over 1.5 million workers. In total, 13 states have raised wages since the President's original call to increase the minimum wage in 2013. In addition, cities have taken steps to raise the minimum wage for contractors or employees, and companies like the Gap have raised wages for their workers.

Creating Jobs Through Increased Travel and Tourism to the United States: The Administration is developing a national goal to improve the entry process and reduce wait times for international travelers to the United States, including action plans at the 15 largest airports for international arrivals. These actions will build on efforts that have already cut visa wait times from as much as several months to an average of 5 days and are poised to help increase visitors to the United States from 55 million in 2009 to 100 million by 2021, which will support hundreds of thousands of additional jobs.

Supporting Efforts to Foster Manufacturing Entrepreneurship and Investment in the United States: The Administration helped convene more than 90 mayors who are offering manufacturing entrepreneurs more opportunities to start and grow their businesses, while it also took steps to assist entrepreneurs with access to billions of dollars worth of cutting edge equipment to help start businesses. The Administration also continues to implement the SelectUSA program, which has now assisted more than \$18 billion in investment into the United States, while the President announced the second-ever SelectUSA conference next year to further facilitate new investment.



- June 23:** Actions taken to support working families as part of Summit on Working Families, including a Presidential Memorandum directing federal agencies to enhance workplace flexibilities
- June 18:** First-Ever White House Maker Faire, expanding access to tools to launch businesses, learn STEM skills, and lead a grassroots renaissance in American manufacturing
- June 17:** New actions by federal agencies, Mayors, and local leaders to invest locally in manufacturing entrepreneurship
- June 17:** Actions announced to preserve and protect oceans, including to combat black market fishing
- June 14:** Nearly \$1 billion National Disaster Resilience Competition announced, to support innovative local resilience projects
- June 13:** Announced steps to strengthen Native American communities through education and economic development
- June 12:** Proposed rule issued to raise minimum wage for workers on new federal contracts to \$10.10 an hour
- June 9:** Presidential Memorandum directing ED to allow all direct loan borrowers to cap their loans at 10 percent of income, benefiting up to 5 million with student loans
- June 4:** Joined four governors and 77 mayors to call for an end to veterans homelessness by the end of 2015
- June 2:** Proposed the Clean Power Plan to protect the health of our children and put our nation on the path toward a 30 percent reduction in carbon pollution from the power sector by 2030
- May 30:** My Brother's Keeper Federal Task Force issued its 90-day report recommending a series of steps we can take – working across agencies and across sectors – to expand opportunity for young people across the country
- May 29:** Healthy Kids and Safe Sports Concussion Summit
- May 28:** Energy Datapalooza with commitments from utilities and cities to use open data to drive energy efficiency
- May 27:** 4th White House Science Fair with new steps to help more students excel in STEM education and ConnectED commitments
- May 22:** Presidential Memorandum directing DHS and Commerce to take steps to improve the entry process for international arrivals
- May 21:** Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument declared
- May 20:** Announcement of 2015 SelectUSA Summit and over \$18 billion in investment facilitated by SelectUSA to date
- May 14:** Plan released to reduce the aggregate time it takes to conduct reviews and make permitting decisions for infrastructure projects, while producing measurably better environmental and community outcomes
- May 13:** Actions announced by HUD and FHFA to reduce lender uncertainty and expand access to mortgage credit
- May 9:** Commitment by 300 public and private sector organizations to cut energy waste and deploy enough solar energy to power nearly 130,000 homes
- May 6:** Third National Climate Assessment released



- April 25:** Laid out plan to strengthen America's teacher preparation programs
- April 16:** Announcement that nearly \$500 million in community college grants will be used for "job-driven" models, along with \$100 million to support apprenticeships
- April 8:** Executive Order fighting pay discrimination among federal contractors
- April 7:** Award of \$100 million in grants to redesign high schools
- March 28:** Released strategy to reduce methane emissions
- March 19:** Climate Data Initiative launched
- March 14:** Gainful employment regulations released to protect many students from unaffordable college loans
- March 13:** Presidential Memorandum directing Secretary of Labor to update overtime pay protections
- March 11:** Permanently protected the first shoreline addition to the California Coastal National Monument
- March 7:** FAFSA Completion Initiative launched to help students apply for college financial aid
- February 27:** Launch of My Brother's Keeper initiative, a new public-private effort to expand opportunity
- February 25:** New manufacturing institutes launched in Chicago and Detroit
- February 19:** Executive Order directing the timely completion of the International Trade Data System
- February 18:** President directs EPA and DOT to adopt new fuel efficiency standards for heavy duty trucks
- February 12:** Executive Order raising minimum wage for workers on new federal contracts
- February 7:** Launch of "Made in Rural America" initiative
- February 5:** New USDA regional climate hubs established
- February 4:** Along with Feb. 28 and May 27 event, \$2 billion in private sector commitments on ConnectED – following \$2 billion federal commitment from State of the Union
- January 31:** More than 300 companies signed on to best practices on recruiting and hiring the long-term unemployed, along with \$150 million committed towards Ready to Work Partnership Grants
- January 30:** Presidential Memorandum directing federal training program review led by the Vice President to ensure they are job-driven
- January 29:** Presidential Memorandum directing Treasury to create myRA retirement program
- January 16:** College Opportunity Summit with more than 150 commitments by colleges, universities and organizations
- January 15:** New manufacturing institute launched in Raleigh
- January 9:** First five Promise Zones announced





June 23: At the Summit on Working Families, the President announced a set of concrete steps that will create more opportunities for hardworking families to get ahead.

TAKING ACTION

As part of the White House Summit on Working Families, the Administration announced the following actions to support workplace flexibility:

- **PM Directing Federal Agencies To Expand Flexible Workplace Policies:** The President issued a Presidential Memorandum directing federal agencies to implement existing efforts to expand flexible workplace policies to the maximum possible extent and to make clear that federal workers have the “right to request” a flexible work arrangement without fear of retaliation.
- **Grants to Support Efforts to Remove Barriers to Training:** DOL will make funds available for technical skill training grants to provide low-wage individuals opportunities to advance in their careers in in-demand industries, with \$25 million of the competition focused on addressing barriers to training faced by those with childcare responsibilities.
- **Expanding Access to More Occupations:** Numerous initiatives will focus on closing the gender pay gap by expanding women’s access to high-paying science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and non-traditional occupations.
- **Pregnancy Discrimination Map:** At the President’s direction, DOL released a new interactive online map where working families can learn about the rights of pregnant workers in each state.

MOVING FORWARD

- **Convening Businesses and Stakeholders to Identify and Share Innovative Solutions:** In consultation with the Administration, a group of businesses are launching a working group that that will bring together companies across diverse industries to explore ways they can address the needs of working families in today’s changing economy, doing right by their workers and their bottom line.
- **Supporting States in their Efforts to Establish Paid Leave Programs:** The Administration is dedicated to helping more states follow in the footsteps of California, New Jersey, and Rhode Island. The President has therefore directed DOL to make funds available to support actuarial analysis by states who are considering implementing a state paid leave program, but need help getting past this crucial step.
- **Making the Federal Workplace a Role Model and Source of Guidance:** As part of the Presidential Memorandum mentioned above, agencies will be reviewing best practices for and barriers to flexible work arrangements, culminating in a report to the President by Spring 2015.





June 17 and 18: As part of visit to a TechShop in Pittsburgh and the first-ever White House Maker Faire, President Obama announced steps to help Americans use new tools such as 3D printers, laser cutters, and easy-to-use design software to launch businesses; learn vital skills in STEM; and lead a grassroots renaissance in American manufacturing.

TAKING ACTION

Creating a Nation of Makers: As documented in the White House report *Making in America: U.S. Manufacturing Entrepreneurship and Innovation*, new tools for democratized production are boosting entrepreneurship in American manufacturing and building U.S. competitiveness. Key steps announced to help realize this opportunity include:

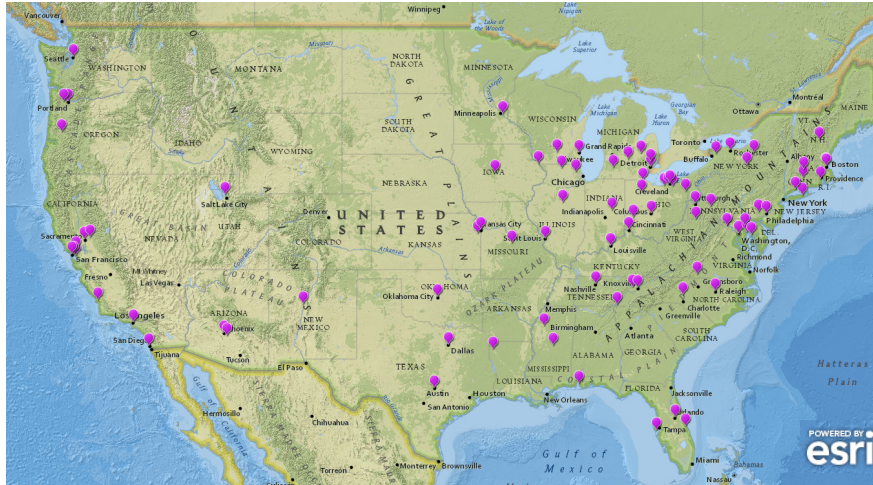
- **Helping Makers Launch New Businesses and Create Jobs:** More than 13 federal agencies and companies including Etsy, Kickstarter, Indiegogo, Chevron, Intel, and Local Motors, in addition to more than 90 Mayors who took the “Maker Mayors” Challenge,” are offering Makers and manufacturing entrepreneurs a suite of support services to start and grow their business. In addition, federal agencies are providing streamlined access for entrepreneurs to more than 700 federal R&D facilities, and, as supported in the President’s 2015 Budget, five agencies are investing more than \$150 million in the Materials Genome Initiative to support advanced manufacturing.
- **Dramatically Expanding the Number of Students who Have the Opportunity to Become Makers:** The Department of Education and five other agencies; over 150 colleges and universities; more than 130 libraries; and major companies including Intel, Autodesk, Disney, Lego, 3D Systems, and MAKE are committing to create more Makerspaces, enlist more educators in teaching manufacturing entrepreneurship, and expand access to tools and mentors.

MOVING FORWARD

Continued Effort to Expand Access to Making: The Administration is working to grow the coalition of Mayors, companies, universities, non-profits, and others working to support making, including steps to create more Makerspaces in schools, increase the number of cities with strong manufacturing entrepreneurship ecosystems, and increase the value and variety of what entrepreneurs can design, prototype, and manufacture.

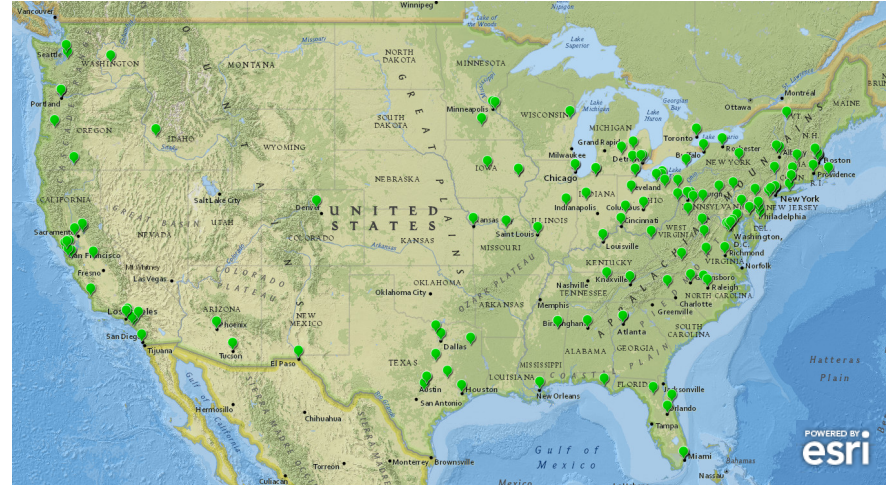


Maker Mayors



More than 90 mayors and other municipal leaders across the nation have pledged to take action to boost manufacturing entrepreneurship and Making in their own communities and beyond. These communities range from big cities to small towns and villages; from recognized centers of innovation to long-time manufacturing hubs; and many others. These Maker Mayor initiatives are being led by officials who are Democrats, Republicans, and Independents.

Maker Universities



More than 150 colleges and universities reaching over 3 million students are taking steps to expand manufacturing entrepreneurship and Making on campuses and in their communities. A diverse group of higher education institutions signed a letter to the President committing to take concrete steps to empower students to learn through Making, expand access to Maker spaces, incorporate manufacturing entrepreneurship into senior design projects and admissions portfolios, and support student entrepreneurship.





June 17: New executive actions announced to preserve and protect the oceans, including new protections for world-class marine areas and actions to combat black market fishing and support fishermen.

TAKING ACTION

Leading at Home and Internationally to Protect Our Oceans and Coasts: President Obama launched the National Ocean Policy, which seeks to streamline more than 100 laws that govern our oceans and create a coordinated, science-based approach to managing the many resources and uses of our oceans and coasts. National Ocean Policy initiatives range from voluntary marine planning to releasing federal data to supporting offshore renewable energy projects to making our ports more resilient to sea level rise. Building on this effort, the Administration announced:

- **New Protections for World-Class Marine Areas:** The President announced a commitment to use his authority to protect some of our most precious marine landscapes just like he has for our mountains, rivers and forests.
- **Combating Black Market Fishing and Supporting Fishermen:** The President directed federal agencies to develop a comprehensive program aimed at deterring illegal fishing, addressing seafood fraud, and preventing illegally caught fish from entering the marketplace by increasing traceability and transparency. The program will be an important step in ending illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, building the market for legally and sustainably caught seafood, and supporting the men and women of the fishing industry.

MOVING FORWARD

Expanding Protections in the South-Central Pacific: To meet the President's commitment to new protections for marine areas, the Administration will immediately consider how we might expand protections near the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument in the south-central Pacific Ocean, an area which contains some of the most pristine tropical marine environments in the world. These tropical coral reefs and associated marine ecosystems are also among the most vulnerable areas to the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification.





June 14: National Disaster Resilience Competition launched to support innovative local resilience projects.

May 6: Release of the third National Climate Assessment, the most authoritative and comprehensive source of scientific information to date about climate change impacts in the United States.

March 19: Launch of the Climate Data Initiative, which brings together open government data, innovators, and the private sector to support the development of data-driven resilience tools for communities.

TAKING ACTION

Developing Actionable Climate Information Data and Tools: A critical piece of the President's Climate Action Plan is ensuring that we utilize science-based knowledge to inform and underpin actions to combat the threats from climate change.

- **Climate Data Initiative:** Building on the success of the Obama Administration's ongoing efforts to unleash the power of open government data, the Climate Data Initiative leverages open climate data to fuel innovation and private sector entrepreneurship to advance climate change preparedness through the development of data products, tools, and applications that are geared toward solving real-life challenges.
- **Third U.S. National Climate Assessment:** The assessment highlights new advances in our understanding of climate change impacts across all regions of the United States and on critical sectors of the economy at an unprecedented level of rigor, clarity, and comprehensiveness. This information was released via an innovative and intuitive website that translates scientific insights into practical, usable knowledge to help decision-makers anticipate and prepare for specific climate change impacts.
- **National Disaster Resilience Competition:** Responding to demand from state, local, and tribal leaders who are working to increase the safety and security of their communities, the nearly \$1 billion competition will invite communities that have experienced natural disasters to compete for funds to help them rebuild and increase their resilience to future disasters.

MOVING FORWARD

Expanding Access to Climate Information, Data, and Tools: NOAA, NASA, and other agencies participating in the U.S. Global Change Research Program will expand the Climate Data Initiative, build a climate resilience toolkit, and explore ways to sustain National Climate Assessment activities with the goals of providing ongoing, timely, and actionable climate information, data, and tools in support of climate preparedness.



WHEN FULLY IMPLEMENTED, PRESIDENT OBAMA'S CLIMATE POLICIES FROM THE PAST YEAR WILL:



x 600 MILLION

CUT NEARLY 3 BILLION TONS OF CARBON POLLUTION BETWEEN 2020 AND 2025.

THAT'S EQUIVALENT TO TAKING MORE THAN 600 MILLION CARS OFF THE ROAD FOR A YEAR.

[WH.GOV/CLIMATE-CHANGE](https://www.whitehouse.gov/climate-change) #ActOnClimate

WHEN FULLY IMPLEMENTED, PRESIDENT OBAMA'S CLIMATE POLICIES FROM THE PAST YEAR WILL:



x 2 MILLION

ENABLE THE DEVELOPMENT OF 8,100 MEGAWATTS OF WIND, SOLAR, AND GEOTHERMAL ENERGY.

THAT'S ENOUGH TO POWER NEARLY 2 MILLION HOMES.

[WH.GOV/CLIMATE-CHANGE](https://www.whitehouse.gov/climate-change) #ActOnClimate

WHEN FULLY IMPLEMENTED, PRESIDENT OBAMA'S CLIMATE POLICIES FROM THE PAST YEAR WILL:



50,000 WORKERS

TRAIN MORE THAN 50,000 WORKERS TO ENTER THE SOLAR INDUSTRY.

THAT MEANS MORE JOBS IN AN ALREADY GROWING INDUSTRY.

[WH.GOV/CLIMATE-CHANGE](https://www.whitehouse.gov/climate-change) #ActOnClimate

WHEN FULLY IMPLEMENTED, PRESIDENT OBAMA'S CLIMATE POLICIES FROM THE PAST YEAR WILL:



1 BILLION SQ FEET

IMPROVE THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY OF MORE THAN 1 BILLION SQUARE FEET OF CITY BUILDINGS.

THAT MEANS BIG SAVINGS FOR SCHOOLS, HOUSING COMPLEXES, AND BUSINESSES ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

[WH.GOV/CLIMATE-CHANGE](https://www.whitehouse.gov/climate-change) #ActOnClimate





June 13: Actions to strengthen Native American communities through education and economic development.

TAKING ACTION

On June 13, the President, accompanied by the First Lady, made his first Presidential trip to Indian Country. Building on the significant progress the President has already made in partnering with tribes on a nation-to-nation basis to promote prosperous and resilient tribal nations, the Administration announced:

- **Bureau of Indian Education “Blueprint for Reform”:** In June, the Departments of the Interior and Education released a Bureau of Indian Education “Blueprint for Reform,” a comprehensive plan to redesign the BIE to achieve one overarching goal: for tribes to deliver a world-class education to all students attending BIE schools. To implement the Blueprint, Secretary Jewell signed an order to transform the BIE into a school improvement organization rather than a direct school operator.
- **Modernizing and Streamlining Approval Process for Rights-of-Way:** Interior announced a proposed rule to modernize and streamline the approval process for rights-of-way, which will help spur tribal economic development.
- **Supporting Native American Owned Businesses:** The Departments of the Interior and Agriculture and the Small Business Administration announced new initiatives to support Native American-owned businesses, including a new American Indian and Alaska Native portal on SBA’s BusinessUSA website.
- **Increasing Veterans Hiring:** The Indian Health Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs announced a new commitment to increase the number of veterans they hire.

MOVING FORWARD

- **Implement the BIE Blueprint:** Interior will work to transform the BIE into an organization that supports tribes in delivering a world-class education to all students attending BIE schools.
- **Hold Listening Sessions on School Climate:** The White House Initiative on American Indian and Alaska Native Education will hold listening sessions where schools and communities will identify ways to improve school climate, discuss recent research, and highlight ways communities are proactively supporting Native students.
- **Encourage Use of Tax-Exempt Bonds for Tribal Economic Development:** Treasury will conduct outreach to tribal leaders and bond practitioners to expand awareness and understanding of Tribal Economic Development Bonds.





February 12 and June 12: Executive Order signed requiring that workers on new federal contracts be paid \$10.10 an hour, with proposed rule issued on June 12.

TAKING ACTION

Executive Order Will Raise Wages for Hundreds of Thousands of Workers on Federal Contracts: The EO will benefit hundreds of thousands of people working under contracts with the federal government who are making less than \$10.10 an hour.

- **Evidence Shows Higher Wages Improve Quality and Efficiency:** Studies show that boosting low wages will reduce turnover and absenteeism, while also boosting morale and improving the incentives for workers, leading to higher productivity overall. These gains improve the quality and efficiency of services provided to the government.
- **Proposed Rule Published:** On June 12, the Department of Labor published a proposed rule, keeping it on track to implement the higher wages by January 1, 2015.

MOVING FORWARD

President's Call to Action Has Spurred States, Cities and Businesses to Act:

- **State Action:** Since the President first called for a minimum wage increase in 2013, 13 states and Washington, DC have passed increases to their minimum wage. Actions that have been taken in just Connecticut, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota and Vermont this year to raise wages to at or near \$10.10 mean that over 1.5 million workers will see a raise. Jeanne Mejeur, a senior researcher at the National Conference of State Legislatures, told the [New York Times](#) that “there had been previous waves of interest at the state level, but the President’s efforts appeared to have encouraged states to seek a higher minimum wage.”
- **Local Action:** Cities have joined in, too. Cities like St. Louis, Philadelphia, New London, Connecticut and Ann Arbor, Michigan have taken action to raise the minimum wage for city employees and/or contract workers.
- **Business Action:** The Gap announced it was raising its wages to at least \$10, IKEA announced it was raising its wages at locations across the country, while small businesses have taken action to increase their own wages.





June 9: Presidential Memorandum signed to allow all borrowers with direct student loans to cap their monthly payments at just 10 percent of their income, helping up to 5 million borrowers.

TAKING ACTION

Capping Student Loan Payments at 10 Percent of Income: The President directed the Secretary of Education to propose regulations that ensure student debt remains affordable for all who borrowed federal direct loans as students by allowing them to cap their payments at 10 percent of their monthly incomes. The Department will aim to make the new plan available to borrowers by December 2015.

MOVING FORWARD

Doing All We Can to Help Students Repay Their Loans: Moving forward, the Administration is helping students repay their loans:

- **Renegotiating Contracts with Servicers to Strengthen Incentives to Help Borrowers Repay Loans on Time:** The new contracts will include stronger financial incentives for these companies to help borrowers repay their loans on time, keep loans out of delinquency and default, and serve borrowers well.
- **Providing Relief to Servicemembers:** Because paperwork was standing between active duty servicemembers and the lower interest rates they are entitled to, the Department of Education will automatically reduce interest rates on their federal direct student loans and help lenders of federal guaranteed loans streamline their own processes.
- **Outreach on Repayment Options:** The Department of Education is redoubling its efforts to identify borrowers who may be struggling to repay and provide them with timely information about their options, helping them avoid or get out of default. The Department of the Treasury is working with Intuit, Inc. and H&R Block to communicate information about federal student loan repayment options to millions of borrowers during the tax filing process and times of financial planning through Mint.com.





June 4: Four governors, 77 mayors, and 4 county officials met to end veterans homelessness by the end of 2015.

TAKING ACTION

Building on Historic Progress: Over the last three years, the Administration and our partners in states and communities across the country have achieved a 24 percent decrease in homelessness among veterans. Building on that progress, the Administration announced a new effort:

- Through the Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness, mayors and other state and local leaders across the country will marshal federal, local, and non-profit efforts to end veteran homelessness in their communities.
- Ending veteran homelessness means reaching the point where there are no veterans sleeping on our streets and every veteran has access to permanent housing. Should veterans become homeless or be at-risk of becoming homeless, communities will have the capacity to quickly connect them to the help they need to achieve housing stability. When those things are accomplished, our nation will achieve its goal.

MOVING FORWARD

Federal Partnership for Local Leaders: To aid the mayors in pursuit of the goal of ending homelessness among veterans, the federal government has provided resources and enforced programs to strengthen our country's homeless assistance programs. These resources and reforms, when implemented in local communities, can include:

- Removing barriers to help veterans obtain permanent housing as quickly as possible;
- Prioritizing the most vulnerable veterans for permanent supportive housing opportunities;
- Coordinating outreach efforts;
- Targeting rapid rehousing interventions, including those made possible through the Department of Veterans Affairs' Supportive Services for Veteran Families program, toward veterans and their families who need shorter-term rental subsidies and services in order to be reintegrated back into our communities;
- Leveraging housing and services resources that can help veterans who are ineligible for some of the VA's programs get into stable housing;
- Increasing early detection and access to preventive services; and
- Closely monitoring progress toward the goal.





June 2: The EPA released the Clean Power Plan proposing commonsense carbon pollution standards for existing plants. These standards will protect the health of our children and put our nation on the path toward a 30 percent reduction in carbon pollution from the power sector by 2030. Over the course of the last year, EPA has collected extensive public input – including from 11 public listening sessions and meetings with more than 300 groups from across the country – that have helped guide the development of the Clean Power Plan.

TAKING ACTION

Commonsense Standards through the Clean Power Plan: Power plants are the largest concentrated source of carbon emissions in the United States, making up roughly one-third of all domestic greenhouse gas emissions. While we have limits on the amount of arsenic, mercury, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and particle pollution that power plants can emit, there are currently no national limits on carbon pollution levels.

The Clean Power Plan will:

- Help cut carbon pollution from the power sector by approximately 30 percent from 2005 levels. It will also reduce by 25 percent pollutants that contribute to the soot and smog that make people sick.
- Lead to climate and health benefits worth an estimated \$55 billion to \$93 billion per year in 2030. This includes avoiding 2,700 to 6,600 premature deaths and 140,000 to 150,000 asthma attacks in children in 2030.
- Create health benefits that far outweigh the estimated annual costs, which are \$7.3 billion to \$8.8 billion in 2030. From the soot and smog reductions alone, American families will see up to \$7 in health benefits for every dollar invested through the Clean Power Plan.

MOVING FORWARD

Finalizing the Rule and State Plans:

- From June-October, EPA will hold a 120-day public comment period on the proposed standards. During the week of July 28, EPA will also hold public hearings on the Clean Power Plan in Atlanta, Denver, Pittsburgh, and Washington, DC.
- The final rule is expected to be issued by EPA in June 2015.





May 29: To help ensure children's safety in sports, the President hosted the Healthy Kids and Safe Sports Concussion Summit at the White House.

TAKING ACTION

Staying Active and Playing Safe: At the White House, the President and experts highlighted the importance of being active, while taking steps to get educated about concussions. The President highlighted a number of commitments by key stakeholders to expand our knowledge of and research on concussions and to give parents, coaches, clinicians, and young athletes the tools to prevent, identify, and respond to concussions.

MOVING FORWARD

- NCAA and the Department of Defense are launching a \$30 million effort to fund the most comprehensive clinical study of concussion and head impact exposure ever conducted and improve concussion education and awareness.
- The National Institutes of Health is launching a new longitudinal research effort on the chronic effects of repetitive concussions to inform clinical trials aimed at preventing or slowing disease progression in the future. This effort builds on an NIH partnership with the National Football League.
- The NFL is committing \$25 million over the next three years to promote youth sports safety, including new pilot programs to expand access to athletic trainers in schools, in conjunction with the National Athletic Trainers Association, and a Back to Sports program – a collaboration with the National PTA and the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association – to hold information sessions across the country to educate parents about sports safety.
- With a \$10 million investment from Steve Tisch, UCLA's Departments of Neurosurgery and Pediatrics will launch the UCLA Steve Tisch BrainSPORT Program to target sports concussion prevention, outreach, research and treatment.





State of the Union, Feb. 4, Feb. 27, and May 4: FCC announced a \$2 billion “downpayment” to substantially increase federal investment in school broadband and wireless and commitments from top technology companies to provide free digital devices, content, and wireless access for K-12 students.

TAKING ACTION

Delivering Fast Broadband and Wireless to 15,000 More Schools – and 20 Million More Students – By the End of 2015: In the near-term, the FCC is moving forward with a \$2 billion “downpayment” that will deliver the connectivity essential to tech-infused teaching and learning. This investment will bring us dramatically closer to the President’s goal of connecting 99 percent of students within five years.

Empowering Pioneering Schools with \$2 Billion in Technology to Make the Digital Transition in 2014-16: Will jumpstart transition by delivering tablets/laptops as primary means of instruction and evaluation, using software that adapts to students’ needs, and bringing richer, more effective instructional content into the classroom and wirelessly at home.

\$2 Billion in Private-Sector Commitments: \$2 billion in new private sector commitments announced, including over \$100 million each from Adobe, Apple, AT&T, Autodesk, Esri, Microsoft, O’Reilly Media, Prezi, Sprint and Verizon. On June 13, the Administration launched the ConnectED Hub (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/ConnectED>) a digital resource routing teachers/schools to these resources.

MOVING FORWARD

New Investments Will Dramatically Expand Market for e-Learning Devices and Software – Beginning in the 2014/2015 School Year: Beyond the direct impact of these investments on schools, they will also help expand the market for entrepreneurs developing learning devices and software. Nearly 90 percent of educators want to enrich their teaching with more technology, and ConnectED will deliver that basic infrastructure atop which America’s top innovators can build new businesses.

Robust Demand Will Make the Tools of Digital Learning More Affordable: By delivering next-generation connectivity to schools and jumpstarting the transition through private-sector commitments, increased and aggregated demand will drive down prices for educational tablets and software making them accessible for all schools. The President challenged innovators to make educational devices price-competitive with textbooks, and with a proliferation of ingenuity, we are well on the way to making that goal a reality in the next two years – ahead of schedule.





May 27: As part of the fourth White House Science Fair, President Obama announced new steps to help more students excel in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education, including a new \$35 million teacher training competition.

TAKING ACTION

Educate to Innovate: The *Educate to Innovate* campaign is the President's all-hands-on-deck effort to get more girls and boys inspired to excel and to provide the support they need to succeed in the vital STEM subjects. Key steps announced at the 2014 White House Science Fair include:

- A new \$35 million Department of Education teacher training competition, in support of the President's goal to train 100,000 excellent STEM teachers. The federal investment builds on an ongoing private-sector effort, called *100kin10*, that has been created in response to the President's call to action, with nearly 200 partners, commitments to support more than 40,000 teachers, and more than \$60 million raised in philanthropic funding.
- A major expansion of STEM AmeriCorps to provide STEM learning opportunities for 18,000 low-income students this summer.
- A national STEM mentoring effort led by *US2020* kicking off in seven cities, as well as new steps by leading technology and media companies, non-profits, and others to connect more students to STEM.

MOVING FORWARD

Continued Effort to Grow the Coalition Supporting STEM Education: The Administration will continue its efforts to grow the coalition of companies, foundations, non-profits and others supporting Educate to Innovate, including steps that support more excellent STEM teachers, increase the participation of girls and under-represented minorities, and give access to more hands-on STEM and Making experiences. This Fall, the Department of Education will announce the winners of its STEM-focused teacher training grants, which are designed to encourage multi-sector partnerships with a built-in private-sector match requirement.





May 22: Department of Homeland Security and Department of Commerce directed to take steps to improve the entry process, and to develop a national goal for improving the entry process for international arrivals to the U.S. and 15 airport-specific action plans by this fall.

TAKING ACTION

Work to Date Has Already Helped to Drive Increased International Travel to the United States: Thanks to steps taken by the Administration such as cutting visa wait times from as much as several months to an average of 5 days, the number of international visitors to the United States has grown from 55 million in 2009 to 70 million in 2013. Growth in international visitors has created roughly 175,000 American jobs over the past five years and helped put us on track to meet President Obama's goal of 100 million visitors in 2021 – which will support hundreds of thousands of additional jobs.

Presidential Memorandum to Expedite the Entry Process for Travelers, Starting With the 15 Largest Airports: Over the next 120 days, Secretary Pritzker and Secretary Johnson are leading an interagency team, in close partnership with industry, to improve the entry process. The team is both developing a national goal to improve the entry process and reduce wait times for international travelers to the United States as well as action plans at the 15 largest airports for international arrivals, consistent with progress achieved at Dallas Fort Worth and Chicago O'Hare airports where, through a combination of streamlining processes and upgrading technologies, wait times were reduced significantly.

MOVING FORWARD

Working closely with industry to improve the arrivals process and welcome more international travelers to the U.S.:

- Meetings are underway at the top 15 airports for international arrivals to the US where the federal government is working closely with local airport authorities, airlines, and other industry stakeholders to develop airport specific action plans.
- The Administration is asking for industry's feedback on a national goal to improve the entry process and reduce wait times for international travelers to the United States that can help set an ambitious vision for the country.





May 21: Permanently protected the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument in south-central New Mexico.

March 11: Permanently protected the first shoreline addition to the California Coastal National Monument.

TAKING ACTION

Protecting Our Nationally Significant Public Lands: In his State of the Union address, President Obama pledged to use his authority to protect more of our pristine federal lands for future generations. Since then, he has taken action including:

- **Designating the Organ Mountains-Desert Peak National Monument:** President Obama established the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument in New Mexico, an action that, according to independent analysis, could generate \$7.4 million in new economic activity each year. Using his authorities under the Antiquities Act for the 11th time, the President took action to permanently protect approximately 496,000 acres to ensure that the prehistoric, historic, and scientific values of this area remain for the benefit of all Americans while preserving access for sportsmen, ranchers, and recreational users.
- **Established the First Shoreline Addition to the California Coastal National Monument:** Using his authorities under the Antiquities Act, President Obama protected the Point Arena-Stornetta Public Lands, a 1,665 acre stretch of Northern California's spectacular coastline.
- **Protecting Pollinators Critical to the Nation's Economy:** Presidential Memorandum issued June 20 directed federal agencies to take steps to protect and restore domestic populations of pollinators, including honey bees, native bees, birds, bats, and butterflies – contributors of more than \$24 billion to our economy and essential to our food system and environmental health.

MOVING FORWARD

The President has called on Congress to do its part to protect the nation's most treasured spaces proposed to fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund through mandatory funding and has pledged to continue to act on his own through the America's Great Outdoors Initiative. The Department of the Interior and other agencies are also taking steps – including through public-private partnerships – to connect more youth to the great outdoors. The Secretary of Agriculture and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency will also lead a new Pollinator Health Task Force which will focus federal efforts to research, prevent, and recover from the impact of pollinator losses to the economy.





May 20: Announced the second SelectUSA Summit to be held in March 2015 and issued a progress report on SelectUSA, the first-ever coordinated federal investment promotion effort that has helped win over \$18 billion in job creating investments into the United States.

TAKING ACTION

Competing for Global Business Investment: In 2011, the President launched SelectUSA – a global team in embassies abroad and agencies at home focused on encouraging and supporting companies to bring job-creating investment to the United States. Last October, the President hosted the first-ever SelectUSA Summit, bringing more than 1,300 people business executives from more than 60 countries, governors, mayors, and economic development officials from 48 states – to see the benefits of doing business in the U.S. In May, the President announced that:

- **The Second SelectUSA Summit Will Be Held in March 2015:** The second SelectUSA Summit will be held on March 23-24, 2015 – with the success of the first summit, this event will be twice the size with more than 2,500 people from around the world to bring more job-creating investments to the U.S.
- **SelectUSA Has Assisted More than \$18 Billion in Investments:** The President reported that SelectUSA has directly assisted in winning more than \$18 billion in job-creating business investments for the United States. More broadly, the United States expanded its lead as the #1 destination globally for business investment – for the second year in a row, the United States is once again the leading destination for business investment as ranked by global business executives on AT Kearney's FDI Confidence Index, surging past countries like Brazil, India, and China.

MOVING FORWARD

Winning Business Investment in the United States: With new resources from Congress, the President and his Administration will continue to build out SelectUSA's capabilities to advocate globally for companies to do business and create jobs in the United States, including directly assisting over 1,000 businesses looking to locate in the United States this year.





May 14: Plan released to reduce the aggregate time it takes to conduct reviews and make permitting decisions, and produce measurably better environmental and community outcomes.

TAKING ACTION

Published a Comprehensive Plan to Accelerate and Expand Permitting Reform Government-Wide: The Administration's plan adopts best practices based on research and analysis including, among others:

- **Synchronizing Reviews:** Federal agencies will move from separate, consecutive reviews to synchronized, simultaneous reviews. By developing one environmental analysis that satisfies all three agencies, project timelines can be significantly reduced. For example, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Department of Transportation have launched a new partnership to synchronize their reviews for transportation projects.
- **Driving Accountability & Transparency through the Online Permitting Dashboard:** The Administration added 11 new projects to the online Dashboard, with a goal of expanding it to all major infrastructure projects. Each project will have a lead agency, a coordinated project plan across all federal agencies, and public tracking of progress to ensure milestones are met.
- **Launching an Interagency Permitting Center to Institutionalize Reform:** The Administration established an interim interagency infrastructure permitting improvement center dedicated to implementing these reforms, as well as looking for new reforms. The President's 2015 Budget includes funding for the center and the expansion of the Permitting Dashboard.

MOVING FORWARD

Efforts to Improve Interagency Coordination Already Underway: The Administration is taking bold action to implement these reforms as part of its commitment to ensuring America has first-class transportation infrastructure. As a first step, the Administration is improving interagency coordination to increase decision making speed. This includes requiring early coordination: the identification of a lead agency for each project, a single coordinated project plan across all federal agencies, and strengthened dispute resolution mechanisms to quickly solve disagreements and ensure decisions are made in a timely fashion.





May 13: HUD and FHFA took action to reduce lender uncertainty and expand access to mortgage credit.

June 26: Treasury announced low-cost funding for HUD affordable rental housing projects.

TAKING ACTION

Expanding Access to Mortgage Credit: Most industry analysts and stakeholders cite tight access to credit as the single largest threat to the housing recovery. Lenders are reluctant to approve mortgages because they are unclear when and why the government will rescind their guarantee. HUD and FHFA announced actions to provide the needed certainty to encourage lending to qualified borrowers across the spectrum of the FHA and GSE credit boxes.

Promoting Affordable Rental Housing: Treasury's Federal Financing Bank (FFB) will provide low-cost financing to state and local housing finance agencies for multifamily mortgages that are insured by HUD/FHA. This will increase the number of affordable units built and preserved and result in deeper savings for renters.

MOVING FORWARD

FHFA Continues to Consider Ways to Provide Additional Certainty: Building on the reforms announced in May, FHFA continues to consider additional ways that they can provide certainty to lenders to encourage access to credit.

Impact on Industry Will Broaden Access for More Borrowers: Lenders such as Wells Fargo have already begun to reduce the minimum credit score requirement for GSE and FHA loans in response to the announcements to allow more creditworthy borrowers to access credit.

FFB Financing will provide support for victims of Hurricane Sandy: The initial implementation of FFB financing will be with the New York City Housing Development Corporation who has identified transactions that would support the Hurricane Sandy reconstruction efforts in New York City, allowing disaster-related affordable housing resources to be used more efficiently.





May 9: President Obama challenged federal agencies to enter into a total of \$4 billion worth of performance contracts for building energy efficiency by 2016, along with more than 300 commitments from the public and private sectors to deploy clean energy and cut energy waste.

TAKING ACTION

Leading by Example in Clean Energy and Greenhouse Gas Reduction: Building on a previous commitment to improve energy performance in federal buildings through performance contracts with the private sector, President Obama challenged federal agencies in May to enter into an additional \$2 billion in energy saving performance contracts for a total commitment of \$4 billion worth of performance contracts by the end of 2016. In addition, on December 5, 2013, President Obama signed a Presidential Memorandum directing the federal government to consume at least 20 percent of its electricity from renewable sources by 2020.

300 Solar and Energy Efficiency Commitments: On May 9, President Obama announced 300 public and private sector organizations that committed to deploying solar energy and cutting energy waste. These commitments represent more than 850 megawatts of solar that will be deployed – enough to power nearly 130,000 homes. They also include 25 new organizations that joined President Obama's Better Buildings Challenge and represent more than 1 billion square feet of building space.

Impact Investments: Over \$1.5 billion in new private-sector impact investments were announced in June that will intentionally generate measurable social or environmental impact alongside financial return, including more than \$300 million announced on June 25 to accelerate clean energy technology and energy-efficient buildings.

Energy Datapalooza: On May 28, at the White House Energy Datapalooza, eight utilities joined 48 other utilities participating in the Green Button energy data sharing standard to benefit over 100 million Americans, among other commitments to advance energy efficiency.

MOVING FORWARD

Streamlining Federal Government Contracts: To meet these new goals, the Administration is working to streamline the performance contract processes, while strengthening the quality and evaluation of energy saving projects. Additionally, agencies are working to pursue innovative large scale renewable projects as part of public/private partnerships that increase the share of renewable energy used in federal buildings.

Continuing to Advance Clean Energy: Supported by historic investments in research, development, and deployment, the price of solar technologies has decreased and the US solar market has experienced rapid growth since President Obama took office. The Administration is continuing to partner with businesses, rural cooperatives, cities, and homeowners to drive deployment of renewable energy and cut energy waste. And with more choosing solar, prices will keep going down, manufacturers will keep innovating, and more jobs will be created.





April 25: President Obama directed the Department of Education to lay out a plan to strengthen America's teacher preparation programs for public discussion by this summer and to move forward to publish a final rule within the next year.

TAKING ACTION

Supporting America's Teachers: Providing all children in America with the opportunity to get a world-class education is critical for their success and our nation's future, and there is no more important factor in quality schools than having a great teacher in every classroom. The Obama Administration will put forth a proposal this summer to support the pipeline of future teachers by strengthening teacher preparation programs and will seek additional input on this plan through a public comment process.

MOVING FORWARD

Strengthening Teacher Preparation Programs by:

- Encouraging all states to develop their own meaningful systems to identify high and low performing teacher preparation programs across all kinds of programs, not just those based in colleges and universities.
- Asking states to move away from current input-focused reporting requirements, streamline the current data requirements, incorporate more meaningful outcomes, and improve the availability of relevant information on teacher preparation.
- Shifting federal TEACH grants, which are available to students who are planning to become teachers in a high-need field in a low-income school, to ensure that these limited federal dollars support only high-quality teacher education and preparation.





January 30 and April 16: Presidential Memorandum issued on January 30 directing a review of all training programs, led by the Vice President, to ensure they are “job-driven” – preparing and matching those who are ready to work with the skills needed to fill good jobs. Two new grant programs announced on April 16 to spread models of job-driven training and apprenticeships, along with private-sector commitments that build on these efforts.

TAKING ACTION

Community College Job-Driven Training Grants: Nearly \$500 million will be awarded through the final round of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training grants. These grants will incentivize community colleges to partner with industry on a national scale to design and implement job training programs based on industry-recognized credentials for the skills demanded by businesses and replicate successful models wherever employers are looking to hire workers with those skills. Applications are due in July, and winners will be awarded in the fall.

American Apprenticeship Grants: \$100 million will be awarded using existing funds to expand apprenticeships – which have been shown to place 87 percent of apprentices into jobs after completing their programs, with average starting wages over \$50,000.

Federal Review of Training Programs: The Vice President is leading a review of existing federal job training programs focused on ensuring they are responsive to employer demand.

MOVING FORWARD

Spurring Industry Efforts to Improve Job-Driven Training: The Administration’s engagement with industry, in addition to these funding opportunities, are encouraging job-driven training efforts from businesses, states, and colleges. For example:

- The Business Roundtable and five foundations have brought together the National Network of Business and Industry Associations, an effort by employers in 24 industries to expand the use of industry-recognized credentials in training and hiring workers.
- Employers, like John Deere, Ford, Dow, and Alcoa, and unions, like UAW and SEIU, are taking action to collectively add tens of thousands of apprentices. The members of the President’s Advanced Manufacturing Partnership are both expanding apprenticeships on their factory floors and teaming up to help other employers start their own programs.





April 8: Strengthen the enforcement of equal pay laws for federal contract workers by promoting transparency and barring retaliation.

TAKING ACTION

Stronger Enforcement of Equal Pay Laws: Ensuring that women earn equal pay is essential to improving the economic security of American families and the growth of our middle class and our economy. Women comprise nearly half of the American workforce – yet, on average, they still earn less than men for doing the same work. President Obama:

- Signed an Executive Order prohibiting federal contractors from retaliating against employees who choose to discuss their compensation: The action provides a critical tool to encourage pay transparency, so workers have a potential way of discovering violations of equal pay laws and are able to seek appropriate remedies.
- Signed a Presidential Memorandum making federal contractor pay practices more transparent: The action instructs the Secretary of Labor to establish new regulations requiring federal contractors to submit to the Department of Labor summary data on compensation paid to their employees, including data by sex and race. The Department of Labor will use the data to encourage compliance with equal pay laws and to target enforcement more effectively.

MOVING FORWARD

The President's Equal Pay Task Force: The Task Force, which includes the key federal agencies focused on closing the pay gap, will continue its efforts to strengthen enforcement of federal pay laws, increase awareness by educating workers of their rights and employers of their obligations, and identifying other potential actions to ensure that women receive fair pay. This includes implementing the pay transparency PM and proposing regulations based on the non-retaliation EO by the end of the year.





April 7: Over \$100 million in grants awarded – using existing Department of Labor funds – to support high school models that better prepare students for college and career.

TAKING ACTION

Department of Labor Issued Over \$100 Million in Grants – Enough to Support 31,000 Students: Using revenues from H-1B visa applications, DOL will finance 24 Youth CareerConnect awards to support partnerships between local education agencies, workforce investment boards, institutions of higher education, and employer partners.

- Grants will help provide students with industry-relevant education: These consortia will work to re-design teaching and learning in partnered high schools to more fully prepare youth with the knowledge, skills, and industry-relevant education needed to get on the pathway to a successful career, including postsecondary education or a registered apprenticeship.
- Focus on engagement with employers: Funding will support robust engagement with local employers, project-based learning, intensive mentoring, and the ability to earn postsecondary credit while still in high school.

MOVING FORWARD

Administration Efforts Have Galvanized Private/Foundation Investments: The grants required at least a 25 percent match and in the end, the \$107 million in investments were matched by \$53.2 million in non-federal funds.

- In addition, the Irvine Foundation is providing \$1.5 million to the California winners and is willing to invest \$1 million to help winners create scalable strategies.
- Partners also came together to create a website that will highlight non-funded applications and may help build the Youth CareerConnect model further.
- Several foundations including Annie E. Casey, JPMorgan Chase, and Wadhvani are participating in a DOL convening of grantees.

Cities and States Are Spreading the Model of Redesigned High Schools: For example, since the President mentioned redesigned schools in the 2013 State of the Union, New York has made funding available for 16 IBM P-Tech schools in New York and Connecticut has launched a school in Norwalk, CT.





March 28: The White House released a Strategy to Reduce Methane Emissions summarizing the sources of methane emissions, committing to new steps to cut emissions through common sense rules and voluntary measures, and outlining the Administration's efforts to improve the measurement of these emissions.

TAKING ACTION

Develop a Comprehensive Strategy to Cut Emissions: Reducing methane emissions is a powerful way to take action on climate change, and putting methane to use can support local economies with a source of clean energy that generates revenue, spurs investment and jobs, improves safety, and leads to cleaner air. When fully implemented, the policies in the methane strategy will improve public health and safety while recovering otherwise wasted energy to power our communities, farms, factories, and power plants. Through the spring, the Administration has taken further steps to implement this strategy.

- In April, the EPA released five white papers on potentially significant sources of methane in the oil and gas sector to solicit input from a panel of independent experts. Additionally, the DOI's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) released an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) to gather public input on the development of a program for the capture, sale, or disposal of waste mine methane on lands leased by the federal government.
- Throughout the spring, Secretary Moniz hosted a series of roundtables with industry, labor, and environmental leaders. Additionally, this month, the EPA signed proposed updates to its New Source Performance Standards for municipal solid waste landfills and issued an ANPRM seeking broad public feedback on whether and how to update emission guidelines for existing landfills.

MOVING FORWARD

Cutting Emissions through Cost-effective Voluntary Actions and Common-sense Standards:

- In July, in partnership with the dairy industry, the USDA, EPA and DOE will jointly release a "Biogas Roadmap" outlining voluntary strategies to accelerate adoption of methane digesters and other cost-effective technologies to reduce U.S. dairy sector greenhouse gas emissions by 25 percent by 2020.





March 14: The Department of Education proposed “gainful employment” regulations to identify career programs that leave students with debts they cannot afford, give them an opportunity to improve, and stop the flow of federal funding to the lowest-performing programs that fail to improve.

TAKING ACTION

Addressing Low-Quality Career Programs: Many career and for-profit colleges empower students to succeed by providing high-quality education and career training. But too many of these programs, particularly those at for-profit colleges, are failing to do so – at taxpayers' expense and the cost of students' futures. Students at for-profit colleges represent only about 13 percent of the total higher education population, but about 31 percent of all student loans and nearly half of all loan defaults. Once final, the new rules would:

- **Set Clear Requirements to Establish that Career Programs Sufficiently Prepare Students for Gainful Employment:** The proposed rule would identify programs that leave students with debts they cannot afford to repay and publicly disclose information about program costs, debt, and performance.
- **Programs Would Lose Eligibility For Federal Student Aid:** The affected programs include nearly all programs at for-profit institutions, as well as certificate programs at public and private non-profit institutions, such as community colleges. Those with high debt-to-earnings rates or loan default rates would lose eligibility to participate in federal student aid programs.

MOVING FORWARD

On Track to Final Publication in Fall 2014: The Department of Education completed its process to accept public comments in May and will publish a final rule in October to go into effect July 1, 2015.

An Earlier Version of the Rule Lead to Improvements for Students: According to a Barclays investor report in 2012, an earlier version of the rule led for-profit colleges to improve the affordability of their programs including cutting tuition, reducing program length, and closing poorly performing campuses.

The Most Recent Proposal Could Reduce Tuitions by Up to 9%, According to Bank of America: “Our updated analysis of debt-to-income metrics finds that the average publicly traded for-profit would need to cut tuition by 9% to meet requirements. In reality, actions would be more complex than cutting tuition (dropping programs, changing student mix).”





March 13: Presidential Memorandum signed directing the Secretary of Labor to update overtime pay protections.

TAKING ACTION

Modernizing Overtime Rules to Reward Hard Work: The overtime rules that establish the 40-hour workweek, a linchpin of the middle class, have eroded over the years. As a result, millions of salaried workers have been left without the protections of overtime. A convenience store manager, a fast food shift supervisor, or an office worker may be expected to work 50 to 60 hours a week or more, making barely enough to keep a family out of poverty, and not receive a dime of overtime pay. In some cases, salaried workers may not even make the minimum wage.

- The President has directed the Secretary of Labor to update regulations regarding who qualifies for overtime protection, which will benefit millions of people who are currently working harder but falling further behind.
- The new rules will update existing protections in keeping with the intention of the Fair Labor Standards Act, address the changing nature of the American workplace, and simplify the overtime rules to make them easier for both workers and businesses to understand and apply.

MOVING FORWARD

Moving Full Speed Ahead to Protect American Workers: Since the announcement, the Secretary of Labor and his team have been talking with workers, and businesses large and small across America, to hear from them about how best to update the overtime rules which haven't been touched in a decade.

- [USA Today editorial](#): "All segments of society benefited from rising wages and economic growth. It's time to do right by rank-and-file employees who work more than 9-to-5."





February 27: Presidential Memorandum signed launching the My Brother's Keeper initiative and creating the My Brother's Keeper Federal Task Force.

TAKING ACTION

Creating and Expanding Ladders of Opportunity: On February 27, the President took action, joining with philanthropy and the private sector to launch the My Brother's Keeper initiative to address persistent opportunity gaps faced by boys and young men of color and ensure that all young people who are willing to do the hard work to get ahead can reach their full potential.

- On May 30, the My Brother's Keeper Federal Task Force issued its 90-day report recommending a series of steps we can take – working across agencies and across sectors – to expand opportunity for young people across the country. The report's recommendations cover a range of areas including early childhood education, 3rd grade reading, high school and postsecondary school completion, job-training and mentorship opportunities and public safety.
- Leading foundations supporting My Brother's Keeper have launched a private sector effort that seeks to invest at least \$200 million over the next five years to find and rapidly spread solutions that have the highest potential for impact. This is on top of \$150 million in current spending that these foundations have already committed toward this work.

MOVING FORWARD

Private Efforts: Foundations have announced they aim to research critical intervention points in the lives of boys and young men of color; change the often-damaging narrative about them; and catalyze coordinated investments to seed, replicate, and scale up effective community solutions. A number of other private sector actors have also made commitments in response to the President's call-to-action.

Federal Task Force: The Task Force is forging ahead with a listening, learning and implementation process. Agencies and others have already begun taking action and will implement recommendations over the coming months.





January 15 and February 25: Three new manufacturing institutes announced in Raleigh, Chicago, and Detroit, while setting the stage for another five to be launched later this year.

TAKING ACTION

Four Manufacturing Institutes Awarded to Date: We have now launched four institutes: additive manufacturing in Youngstown, next generation power electronics in Raleigh, lightweight and modern metals in Detroit, and digital manufacturing and design in Chicago.

These institutes serve as regional hubs, bridging the gap between applied research and product development. They bring together companies, universities, and federal agencies to co-invest in key technology areas and workforce capabilities, increase the transfer of technology into new products and processes, and serve as magnets to encourage investment and production in the United States.

MOVING FORWARD

Innovation Hubs Will Spur Private Sector Investment in Pre-Competitive Research: We expect these hubs to spark activity beyond what the federal funding supports – catalyzing new research and private-sector activity in the communities where they are located and across the country. The four institutes have been matched by over \$300 million in non-federal resources and include more than 100 companies and 40 leading universities, in addition to local workforce organizations.

Four New Institutes to Be Launched This Year: Led by the Departments of Defense and Energy, five new manufacturing institutes will be launched over the course of this year, with the first competition already open for a new institute focused on advanced composites which will be awarded in the fall.

Bipartisan Support to Create a Full Network: The Revitalize American Manufacturing and Innovation Act (RAMI), co-sponsored by Sen. Brown (D) and Sen. Blunt (R), passed committee in the Senate, and Rep. Reed (R) and Rep. Kennedy (D) have a similar bill in the House with broad bipartisan support to spur the U.S. manufacturing sector.





February 19: Executive Order signed requiring the completion of the International Trade Data System (ITDS) by December 2016, creating capabilities that will allow businesses to transmit, through an electronic “single-window,” the data required by the U.S. Government to import or export cargo.

TAKING ACTION

Saving Businesses Time and Money at the Border: By ensuring the timely completion of the International Trade Data System (ITDS) by December 2016, the Executive Order will cut processing and approval times from days to minutes for businesses, especially small businesses, that export American-made goods and services.

- Today, businesses must submit information to dozens of government agencies, often on paper forms, sometimes waiting on permit or other approvals for days to move goods across the border.
- The ITDS will allow businesses to electronically transmit, through a “single-window,” the data required by the U.S. Government to import or export cargo. This new electronic system will speed up the shipment of American-made goods overseas, eliminate often duplicative paperwork, and make our government more efficient.

MOVING FORWARD

Demonstrating Early Capabilities at America's Two Largest Ports: Over the past month, early implementing agencies have taken key steps forward in implementing the ITDS, including large-scale early capabilities demonstrations by the EPA and the USDA at America's two largest ports located in New York and in California.

Working with Supply Chain Leaders on More Efficient Trade Processes: The Administration has been working with supply chain leaders on how the ITDS can enable more efficient trade.

- Scott Davis, CEO of UPS: “This change will be particularly meaningful to our small and medium-sized customers that depend on global trade to grow their businesses and reach the 95 percent of consumers that live outside U.S. borders.”





February 18: EPA and DOT's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) directed to develop and issue the next phase of medium- and heavy-duty vehicle fuel efficiency and greenhouse gas standards by March 2016.

TAKING ACTION

Improving the Fuel Efficiency of American Trucks: Increasing the efficiency of medium- and heavy-duty vehicles is a key component of the President's Climate Action Plan to reduce carbon emissions. Heavy-duty vehicles represent a major opportunity to cut transportation oil use and carbon pollution:

- In 2010, heavy-duty vehicles represented just four percent of registered vehicles on the road in the United States, but they accounted for approximately 25 percent of on-road fuel use and greenhouse gas emissions in the transportation sector.
- They are currently the second-largest source of greenhouse gas emissions within the transportation sector (passenger cars and light trucks are the largest source).
- The first round of standards for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles is projected to save 530 million barrels of oil and reduce GHG emissions by approximately 270 million metric tons, saving vehicle owners and operators an estimated \$50 billion in fuel costs over the lifetimes of the vehicles covered.

MOVING FORWARD

Bolstering Energy Security, Cutting Carbon Pollution, Saving Money and Supporting Manufacturing Innovation:

To develop standards that provide long-term certainty and promote innovation, EPA and NHTSA will work closely with stakeholders, both large and small, to explore further opportunities for fuel consumption and emissions reductions beyond the model year 2018 timeframe. EPA and NHTSA will also work closely with the California Air Resources Board (CARB) with the goal of ensuring that the next phase of standards allow manufacturers to continue to build a single national fleet. The standards will also spur manufacturing innovation and lead to the adoption of new fuel-efficient technologies on trucks and semi-trailers. In developing the standards, EPA and NHTSA will assess advanced technologies that may not currently be in production.





February 7: New “Made in Rural America” export and investment initiative announced by President Obama, designed to bring together federal resources to help rural businesses take advantage of new investment interests and access new customers and markets abroad.

TAKING ACTION

Broadening Our Base of Exporters and Investment Opportunities through Rural America: Last year, U.S. agricultural exports reached a record \$144 billion, which supported nearly one million jobs – but there is still untapped export potential among rural light manufacturers and service providers. As part of this initiative, the Rural Council has committed to:

- Hosting five regional forums to promote rural exports and providing rural leaders and businesses with information about federal and other resources available;
- Convening a “Rural Opportunity Investment” conference in July to connect investors with rural business leaders, local government officials, and economic experts;
- Providing enhanced export counseling for rural businesses to connect with foreign buyers and promoting rural goods and services at trade events and missions; and
- Adapting the BusinessUSA online platform to better connect rural businesses with export and investment resources and coordinate support across the agencies.

MOVING FORWARD

Efforts to Help Rural Businesses Underway: With the support of local partners, the Administration has made real progress to helping rural businesses to meet this challenge:

- Identified sites for two of the five regional export forums: Western PA and West Memphis, AR– to be led by the Appalachian Regional Commission and the Delta Regional Authority, respectively; finalizing identification of other forum sites;
- Initiated grassroots partnerships, such as with the National Association of Counties (NACo), to build awareness of exporting and assistance resources; and
- Engaged agencies on making BusinessUSA more accessible to new rural exporters.





February 5: USDA announced Regional Climate Hubs at seven locations around the country as part of the President's Climate Action Plan to responsibly cut carbon pollution, prepare for the impacts of climate change and maintain competitiveness as we lead international efforts to confront this global challenge.

TAKING ACTION

Prepare Agriculture and Working Lands for the Impact of Climate Change: USDA's Climate Hubs will address increasing risks of fires, invasive pests, devastating floods, and crippling droughts on a regional basis, aiming to translate science and research into information and technical assistance to farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners on ways to adapt and adjust their production decisions and resource management practices.

Support Climate Science: The Climate Hubs will build on the capacity within USDA, in coordination with agencies such as DOI and NOAA, and partners in the private, academic and local government sectors, to deliver science-based knowledge and practical information to farmers, ranchers and forest landowners to support decisions-making related to climate change across the country.

MOVING FORWARD

Establishing the Climate Hubs: The seven new Climate Hubs and three sub-hubs are currently being established in the following areas:

- **Climate Hubs:** National Laboratory for Agriculture and the Environment, Agricultural Research Service, Ames, Iowa; Northern Research Station, Forest Service, Durham, New Hampshire; Southern Research Station, Forest Service, Raleigh, North Carolina; National Resources Center, Agricultural Research Service, Fort Collins, Colorado; Grazinglands Research Lab, Agricultural Research Service, El Reno, Oklahoma; Pacific Northwest Research Station, Forest Service, Corvallis, Oregon; Rangeland Management Unit/Jornada Experimental Range, Agricultural Research Service, Las Cruces, New Mexico.
- **Sub-Hubs:** Houghton, Michigan; Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico; Davis, California.





January 31: Over 300 employers committed to best practices around giving the long-term unemployed a fair shot, while the Administration announced \$150 million in existing funds would be used to scale up grants that help connect the long-term unemployed to work.

TAKING ACTION

Companies Agreed to Best Practices to Give the Long-Term Unemployed a Fair Shot: President Obama brought together CEOs from 300 companies – including 80 of the nation’s largest, and over 20 of the Fortune 50 – who agreed to best practices around recruiting and hiring the long-term unemployed.

The President Also Announced Funding to Provide Training and Job Opportunities to an Estimated 30,000-50,000 Job-Seekers: The Administration will use \$150 million in existing funds to scale up successful public-private partnerships that connect the long-term unemployed to work. The Administration expects to award these grants in October to about 20 to 30 partnerships across the country, out of the more than 150 applications that the Department of Labor received.

MOVING FORWARD

Business Community Is Helping to Identify New Approaches to Supporting the Long-Term Unemployed: As businesses who signed onto the best practices are working to find additional ways to give the long-term unemployed a fair shot, the White House is following up to identify ways in which businesses have adapted their policies.

Businesses and Foundations Are Building on Successful Approaches:

- Skills for America’s Future brought together more than 400 people on a webinar about the grants.
- Per Scholas is expanding its information technology training program to Minneapolis & Dallas with support from companies like Time Warner and Barclays.
- Platform 2 Employment has scaled to three additional cities since January 2014, bringing the total to 11.





January 29: Presidential Memorandum signed directing the Secretary of the Treasury to develop myRA, a safe, easy-to-use, starter retirement savings product for small savers.

TAKING ACTION

myRA Will Provide a New Retirement Option for Millions of Americans: About half of all workers and 75 percent of part-time workers lack access to employer-sponsored retirement plans. myRA will provide a new retirement option that will:

- Be available to workers through direct deposit via their employers.
 - Be portable so that workers can keep their account when they switch jobs.
 - Provide a principal-guaranteed security with the same favorable investment rate of return available to government workers and Members of Congress.
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- David John, senior policy advisor, AARP: “The plan has the advantage that it helps people who do not have the ability right now to save easily through payroll deduction. ...It helps get people into the habit of saving.”
 - Investment Company Institute: “[myRA] can complement the existing vibrant and competitive private sector retirement offerings.”

MOVING FORWARD

Treasury Is Preparing to Roll Out a Pilot By the End of the Year: Department of Treasury is working to implement the program as a pilot by the end of the year, including:

- Issued Request for Proposals for firms to serve as the myRA financial agent.
- Developing regulations for the myRA security, and for the procedures to open and contribute to accounts.
- Outreach to recruit an initial tranche of employers for the pilot phase of the launch.
- Providing consumer protections in coordination with the DOL.
- Developing a Request for Information, to be released mid-summer, to solicit input from industry on how to best transfer savers to the private IRA market once an account reaches \$15,000 or 30 years.





January 16: The President and First Lady's call to action led more than 150 colleges, universities and other organizations to make new commitments to expand college opportunity.

TAKING ACTION

Over 150 Commitments from Colleges and Universities, Non-profits, Businesses and States and Cities: For example, the commitments – which, together, will impact hundreds of thousands of students, included:

- The Khan Academy committed to partner with colleges to develop video content that helps students apply to college.
- Through the National College Access Network, 26 programs are working to expand their test preparation services by more than 15,000 students.
- Complete College America, Achieving the Dream, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, and Jobs for the Future are teaming up with colleges to improve their remediation activities with new tools and resources.

MOVING FORWARD

New Tools to Help Students Apply: On March 7, the President and First Lady announced new steps to help schools increase the number of students who apply for federal student aid – a critical step on the path to college – by identifying individual students who have not yet filed.

Impacts from New Commitments Will Be Seen in 2014-2015 School Year:

- The National College Advising Corps new and expanded partnerships will add 129 advisers in underserved high schools and serve 38,700 students – beginning in the 2014-2015 school year.
 - Nicole Hurd, chief executive, National College Advising Corps, in the [Washington Post](#): “The White House gave us an HOV lane. And we are taking it. It’s exciting.”
- Along with 5 new participating institutions, 100 new STEM Posse scholars will be recruited and participate in precollege training, part of \$70 million in full-tuition scholarships and 500 STEM Posse Scholars over the next five years.
- Chegg is releasing new tools in 2014, including tools to help inspire and guide students to higher levels of achievement, match community college students to 4 year institutions, and help students find scholarships opportunities.
- Over 15 community colleges and 22 States will significantly increase success rates for students in remedial classes.





January 9: President Obama announced the first five Promise Zones in San Antonio, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, Southeastern Kentucky, and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

TAKING ACTION

The President's Promise Zones Initiative: The Promise Zones will strengthen the middle class by partnering with local communities and businesses to create jobs, increase economic security, expand educational opportunities, increase access to quality, affordable housing and improve public safety. The first five Zones have begun to make investments such as training residents for skilled jobs, expanding preschool, and building affordable housing. In exchange, they will receive the resources and flexibility they need to achieve their goals.

MOVING FORWARD

The President Plans to Establish a Total of 20 Zones: The five Promise Zones are part of 20 that will be announced over the next three years. These unique partnerships support local goals and strategies by tracking outcomes, establishing federal partnerships, providing priority access to federal investments, national service support, and data-based policies. The President will announce a new competition for the next round of Promise Zones early this fall.

- Promise Zones were announced to bipartisan urban and rural support, with Rep. Hal Rogers saying, "This program shows promise for recruiting private industry."
- On June 20, Sen. Bob Casey announced legislation based on the Administration's proposals to cut taxes on jobs and investments in Promise Zones.

Communities Moving Forward: We have worked with communities across the country to help move the needle on key social problems:

- Salt Lake City and Phoenix have eliminated chronic veterans homelessness.
- The graduation rate in San Antonio's Promise Zone has risen from 46 percent to 84 percent.
- The unemployment rate is down 32 percent in Detroit.

